

VIETNAM COURIER

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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH THANKS BIRTHDAY WELL-WISHERS

IN response to, and as a token of appreciation of, all the heartfelt birthday greetings from my friends in various countries and from the mass organizations, army units, young volunteers' brigades, old folks, pupils, children, and other people at home, I have composed the following lines:

At seventy-eight, I don't feel very old yet.

Steadily on my shoulders I still carry the onus of state affairs.

In their resistance our people are winning tremendous victories.

Forward we march with our younger generation.

HO CHI MINH

May 20, 1968

WE SHALL BE WORTHY OF THE SUPPORT SHOWN US BY PROGRESSIVE MANKIND

"ON behalf of the Vietnamese people, the D. R. V. N. National Assembly sincerely thanks the peoples, National Assemblies and Governments of the fraternal socialist countries and many other countries. It expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world, including the progressive people in the United States, for their sympathy, support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in all fields in their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

"... The National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam calls on the National Assemblies and Governments in various countries, the peace- and justice-

loving people in the world, including the American people, to strongly condemn the crime of aggression and the utterly savage deeds of the U.S. imperialists, staunchly back the legitimate fight of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, wholeheartedly support the 4 points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Program of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., take firm actions to force the U.S. imperialists to stop their aggressive war against Viet Nam, withdraw troops of the U.S. and its satellites from South Viet Nam, put a permanent and unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war against the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. All affairs in South Viet Nam must be settled by the South

Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. without foreign interference. The reunification of Viet Nam must be settled by the Vietnamese people in both zones by peaceful means and on the basis of democracy, without foreign intervention.

"To be worthy of the support and confidence of the whole progressive mankind, the Vietnamese people will endeavour to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, thereby making an active contribution to the struggle of the world peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress."

(Excerpts from D.R.V.N. National Assembly Appeal)

South Viet Nam **MILITARY OPERATIONS**

◉ Engagements in Many Localities Downtown Saigon Now Controlled by the P.L.A.F. ◉ Heavy Shelling of Dong Lam, First Cav. Base: 150 Aircraft Destroyed within an Hour. ◉ Mekong Delta: 14 Vessels of U.S. Riverine Unit Sunk or Burnt, 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded. ◉ An Enemy Company Wiped Out by 11 Guerillas Northeast of Saigon.

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North Viet Nam

UP TO MAY 31, 1968

2,951 U.S. Planes Were Downed

Mr Harriman, Please Answer These Questions

MR Harriman doesn't like things to be traced back to their source. This, it seems, would prevent all honourable solution. As if to find the root cause of a disease would bar the way to adequate treatment. One easily understands the reasons behind Mr Harriman's reluctance: a look back upon the past would shed too indiscreet a light on Washington's policy.

In order to justify himself, Mr Johnson has repeatedly declared that he is off-lying on the policy inaugurated by three American presidents:

Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy. We would rather say four. For as early as 1943, foreseeing the defeat of Japan and France's waning role in Asia, Roosevelt proposed for Indochina a tripartite trusteeship: U.S.A., China, Great Britain. China then was Chiang Kai-shek, a broker for the U.S.A. The American president's anti-colonialist phraseology camouflaged the true intentions of an imperialist eager to take advantage of a new partition of the world in the wake of the Second World War. Washington's aim

(Continued page 2)



U.S. tank captured by P.L.A.F. in Hue

(Continued from page 1)

It was the serious defeats suffered by French colonialism which allowed Washington to intervene in Viet Nam overtly. The important material and financial aid given the French by the Americans

ishing Tran Van Huong out
stage can, the U.S. believe

As a sign of reaction, Ky's men came out strongly against the Huong Cabinet and denounced its impotence.

pinion

ole crisis of the Saigon

not only to destroy enemy armed forces but also to smother all attempt at rebellion by the entire population. General Taylor, Supreme Commander of the White House, wrote: "We have made progress in preparation to prevent and resist those ambiguous threats which are included under the head of subversive aggression or in communist parlance wars of liberation... It becomes our task to demonstrate in South Viet Nam and elsewhere that far from being cheap, disavowable and safe, the war of liberation can be made costly, dangerous and doomed to failure."

is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

TO THE READER

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VIET NAM COURIER

MRS Luong, secretary of the local Party cell, had every reason to be proud of the results obtained in farming by co-op members.

stripped by far the 5
ns per hectare mark. This
ar, despite a long drawn
t cold, our ricefields are
ry promising. And, as you
ow, recently our daughters
ve had their plane."

● Since early 1968, to help villages step up production, the banking network of Quang Binh province (near the 17th parallel) has granted them long-term loans three times as

own blood," he said. "Nguyen Van Dien, who is exempted from duty, being the only son in the family to look after an old mother, has filled in successively 17 application forms and to give more weight to his request, brought his mother to the mi-

"For convenience's sake we had the idea of asking the provincial militia command to allow us to hunt the bandits outside our

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VIET NAM COURIER

Viet Nam and the World at Large

OVER these last few months, acts of solidarity with Viet Nam's struggle against U.S. imperialism have been stepped up at quicker tempo all over the world. Progressive mankind has clearly voiced its indignation against the aggression and war crimes in North and South Viet Nam. Meanwhile it has given an unequalled support to the Vietnamese people. It has shown a particular admiration for the victories won by the valiant fighters of South Viet Nam. It has welcomed the talented leadership of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and state soundness of its political programme, and warmly hailed the emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. Following closely the Paris talks, it has insisted that the U.S. permanently and unconditionally end its bombings and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. It has stigmatized the obduracy of the Washington rulers who turn a deaf ear to such an exhortation.

IN THE UNITED STATES

THE anti-Viet Nam war movement in the U.S. has reached a new high. April 26, 1968 became a day

Week of Solidarity with African Peoples (May 22-28)

AFRICAN PEOPLES ARE HOLDING ALTOGETHER THEIR NATIONAL-LIBERATION BANNER

NGUYEN THI LUU
Secretary General, Viet Nam Alliance of African Peoples' Solidarity Committee

AFTER World War II, keeping pace with the national liberation movement now irresistibly mounting in Asia and Latin America, the movement of national liberation in Africa has been constantly and vigorously developing, and shaking the bulwark of imperialism and colonialism in Africa.

The imperialists have left no stone unturned to check the revolutionary movement in Africa. Using such perfidious neo-colonialist means as aid, "peace" corps, and subversive activities from inside, division between African countries, the U.S.-backed imperialists are frenziedly attacking the newly independent countries in Africa, in an attempt to preserve what interests they are still holding, secure new positions and finally turn these countries into neo-type colonies.

The neo-colonialism of the imperialists, especially U.S. imperialism, is the greatest danger for African peoples. Furthermore, the imperialists are frantically suppressing the armed struggle in some African countries against the colonial yoke and maintaining racist regimes in

WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

of strong action of the youth from universities and secondary schools in the U.S. In 1,000 universities and colleges, students staged a re-student strike with the slogan "America's youth will not fight in Viet Nam!" On April 27, hundreds of thousands of students in Chicago, Boston and other cities took to the streets like a sweeping wave and shouted, "Let's put an end to the Vietnam war!"

"Withdraw U.S. troops from Viet Nam!", "Viet Nam is to the Vietnamese!", "Let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs!" Even overseas Americans zealously took part in the movement of protest against the Viet Nam war.

On April 26, a great number of American students and priests paraded through the streets for an immediate and unconditional end to the bombing of North Viet Nam.

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Early in May, backed by students of other American universities, the students of California University started a seven-day strike despite police repression, and energetically demanded the Viet Nam war and racial segregation. Leaders of University and Theological Institute, students' organizations in 49 states signed a statement denouncing the U.S. war in Viet Nam as "unjust and inhuman." At a grand meeting held on May 17, against drafting of youths for the Viet Nam war, 600 students of California University, Berkeley, resolutely opposed the draft and were warmly hailed by 6,000 other students and professors.

These demonstrations and meetings mark a new step forward in the American people's movement of protest against the Viet Nam war, a movement more and more Viet Nam, closely linked with the courageous struggle of the Black people in the U.S. for freedom and equality. It spells out the ever-growing discontent of the majority part of Americans over the war waged by the Johnson administration on the Vietnamese people.

IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

ON May Day, the peoples of socialist countries turned their minds toward the Vietnamese people. They stepped up their acts of solidarity and aid to the fighting Vietnamese people. In an interview granted to the Hungarian paper *Magyar Hirlap*, A.N. Koyin, Chairman of the Council

People's March on Washington

THE march of the Poor People on Washington for better jobs, more income and an end to the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam started in early May has drawn in large numbers of the poor from all parts of the U.S.A.

It even surpasses in scope the one-day march on Washington staged by civil rights militants in 1963.

On April 29 the leaders of the march met many secretaries of the Johnson government and the U.S. House of Representatives on the poor's lot. In his interview with Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, the poor people were taken to see the White House. For several days, about 10,000 participants in

people have successfully wound up the collection of 700 million yen for Viet Nam. At meetings flooded with D.R.V.N. N.F.L. flags, the French people hailed the D.R.V.N. delegation to the Paris official talks with the U.S.

The African and Latin American countries, popular feeling was also unmistakable. The governments and peoples of Algeria, and the U.A.R. as well as peoples of other African and Arab countries continue to support the righteous struggle of the Vietnamese people and oppose the U.S. war of aggression. In Ecuador, for the first time May Day was observed with such simultaneous demonstrations held in the main cities under the slogan "Yankies out of Viet Nam!"

On May 10, many representatives of Australian Youth and Students' organizations marched on the National Australian Children's Day and continued their demonstration by picketing the Prime Minister's residence, shouting, "Down with U.S. imperialism!" "Release Aussies refusing to go to Viet Nam!"

In many other socialist countries, weeks of solidarity with Viet Nam and collections of money, medicines and various gifts for Viet Nam have recorded successful results. Many youths in various socialist countries declared they were ready to go to Viet Nam and fight the U.S. aggressors. At a source for Viet Nam, Cuban friends denounced U.S. war crimes, burnt Johnson effigy and held teach-ins on the struggle of the Vietnamese patriots.

It is clear that with the socialist camp as its core the world movement supporting the Vietnamese people and protesting against the U.S. aggressors has gained in scope and intensity, and the peoples of the world are really appreciating the legitimate sentiments and demands of the Vietnamese people. It actually reflects the common sense of the masses and more and more shares this common sense with the peoples of all peoples in the world.

IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

IN Tokyo as well as in many West European cities, big mass rallies were held in April and May to support the Vietnamese people's struggle. The Japanese

the march from all parts of the country have been converging on Washington. On their way their ranks were swelled continually by many more poor people.

The marchers crossed many districts in Washington and held a meeting. Speaking at the meeting, Reverend Abernethy, who had spent for the Viet Nam war huge sums which could have been used to fight poverty in the United States.

Frightened by the masses' action, the Washington circles ordered 18,000 guards and police and about 12,000 troops in Washington to be on the alert in order to keep under control and, if necessary, put down the action. At the same time, stringent measures were taken to restrict the activities of the marchers. For several days, about 10,000 participants in

WHILE official talks between representatives of the D.R.V.N. Government and of the U.S. government are underway in Paris, American planes intensify their raids on the civilian population.

Viet Nam and continue to heap up crimes against the civilian population.

In Nghe An province, U.S. air strikes frequently take place at noon or at night when the inhabitants are resting or asleep. Thus at 8.30 p.m. on May 16, U.S. bombs were released on the village in Hung Long village, Hung Nguyen district, killing 34 people and wounding 40 others, mostly children.

On May 17 and 18, Yen Uy co-operative in Huu Nghi village, Do Luong district, was attacked for two days running, causing many civilian casualties: of the 8 villages of My Thai Dinh, Thang, only one has survived.

The area of Xa Doai biotope is not spared. On May 17, at night, the Catholic population there were taken to their meals, six *Phantoms* dropped more than 800 casualties and fired many rockets, destroying the church and the convent, causing many casualties among the nuns, priests and believers. Nge Nien Church, Nghi Hoa village, Ngi Loc district, was also raided.

In Quang Binh province, Viet Nam - China Friendship" State farm was attacked on May 15, 18 and 19. In Ha Tinh province, 150 houses in Duc Tho township were destroyed on May 14 alone.

Parallel to these air attacks in North Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors have committed more odious crimes in the South.

On May 6, 7 and 8, the U.S. aggressors attacked their lackeys, *Giast Phong* Press Agency reported, mounted about one hundred air raids on populous areas of the villages of My Duc, Khanh Hoa, Chua Phong and Vinh Lo, and the periphery of Chau Doc provincial capital, using napalm, fragmentation bombs, steel-pellet bombs, rockets, etc. Still incomplete figures listed more than 800 casualties among members of the Ho. Hao religious sect and the Cham ethnic minority

WORLD PRESS DEMANDS UNCONDITIONAL END TO U.S. BOMBING OF D.R.V.N.

Pravda (U.S.S.R.) May 25, 1968:

At present the U.S. Delegate speaks of various problems, but the cessation of bombing which in his opinion could be achieved only when Hanoi would make a reciprocal concession. But it is clear that the U.S. has waged a criminal war against the D.R.V.N., an independent and sovereign country; that is why it must end this aggression. It is preposterous to put the victim of aggression on the same footing as the aggressor and expect that the former make some reciprocal gesture.

The U.S. had proposed to hold the official talks and that statements made by both parties would not be announced. This indicates that Washington fears world opinion.

RODONG SHAMMOON (Korea) May 24, 1968:

THE U.S. aggressors flatly reject the unconditional cessation of bombing of the D.R.V.N. but raise the question of restoring the status of the demilitarized zone — the complete, permanent and unconditional cessation of bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. It is only by so doing that the talks can progress smoothly.

GRAMMA (Cuba) May 17, 1968:

HERE is the occasion for the U.S. Government must the legitimate demand of the D.R.V.N. — the complete, permanent and unconditional cessation of bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. It is only by so doing that the talks can progress smoothly.

Radio Pravo (Czechoslovakia) May 15, 1968:

THE attitude of the American "delegation" led by Averell Harriman is quite strange; it cannot be tolerated by the D.R.V.N. at the conference table. It is not only against the legitimate demands of the D.R.V.N. the vital interests of the Vietnamese people but also against the hope of the world's people.

U.S. ODIOSUS CRIMES IN BOTH ZONES OF VIET NAM

(mostly old folks, women and children).

In Dien Bien district, about twenty kilometres south of Da Nang U.S. base, between 1967 and 1968, U.S. and puppet troops and South Korean mercenaries looted and massacred local people during "mopping-up" operations.

Particularly savage was the raid on Dien Trung village in which South Korean troops captured 13 women whom they raped in turn before pushing them into a trench and burning them with petrol. A fourteenth is reported to have been taken alive by them.

According to *CP*, in Saigon on May 11 alone, American planes bombed 15 times many populated quarters in and around the city. Bombs rained down on fire to dwelling houses in Tan Phu Dong area (4th quarter) and buried

hand grenades, wounding many civilians in Phan Thien street (8th quarter). They took advantage of martial law enforced to ban traffic in Cholon round the clock, to strafe any house suspected of having taken part in the popular uprising.

Besides, *Giast Phong* Press Agency reported that on May 8, U.S. aircraft poured about one hundred incendiary bombs and fired thousands of shells on hamlets No 2 and No 3, Nha district, Gia Dinh province, near Saigon, taking a toll of 68 people including many of puppet soldiers' families. Two hundred houses were burnt down. The losses caused to the population amounted to billions of piastres.

Earlier, in April, the U.S. aggressors also committed savage crimes. *Giast Phong* Press Agency reported that between April 23 and 29, more than one thousand dwelling houses in Trieu Phong and Hai Lang districts had been burnt, a dozen tons of paddy and other crops, one hundred oxen, buffaloes and pigs taken away. Vegetation and crops were destroyed, pagodas and churches burnt down, and old people and children perished.

Quang Nam-Da Nang, many Buddhists and members of puppet soldiers' families were killed. In Lan Thuy, Quang Nam province, 31 Buddhist believers were massacred at a time. Nguyen Thi Can, a

Third, bombing of populous areas around Saigon and Hue by U.S. strategic bombers.

It is beyond any doubt that in committing such odious crimes the American imperialists have utterly flouted world opinion and the elementary principles of law and justice.

Leader (Pakistan):

THE U.S. must stop completely the bombing of North Viet Nam so as to create a favourable atmosphere for the peace talks. The day Harriman spoke of peace in Paris, U.S. planes launched 122 attacks on North Viet Nam territory.

Cambridge (Cambodia) May 17, 1968:

THE U.S. says it will de-escalate the war on "reciprocity" basis. This is the demand "reciprocity" and "good will" from the D.R.V.N.

Egyptian Gazette (UAR) May 9, 1968:

ON the re-establishment of peace in Viet Nam the first thing for the U.S. to do is to stop completely and unconditionally all bombings of North Viet Nam and to enter into talks with genuine representatives of the Vietnamese people. The U.S. should not withdraw all of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam.

pregnant woman, was raped and killed with her two children. In Xuyen An village, the old lady Vo Thi San, who had two sons in the puppet army, was raped to death.

A statement of the "Committee to Denounce War Crimes of the U.S. Imperialists and their Lackeys in the Viet Nam War" placed particular emphasis on the following three kinds of crimes:

First, burning of U Minh jungle. In the southern part of South Viet Nam, in March and April, the American aggressors set fire to 2,400 square kilometres of forest with incendiary bombs, phosphorus shells and rockets.

The urban centres on the edge of that forest were mercilessly bombed and strafed. The inhabitants suffered heavy losses in lives and property.

Second, mass murder in two villages in Quang Dien district, Thua Thien province. *Reuter* reported that on April 19, American planes applied the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy after a heavy bombing and strafing of villages.

Third, bombing of populous areas around Saigon and Hue by U.S. strategic bombers.

It is beyond any doubt that in committing such odious crimes the American imperialists have utterly flouted world opinion and the elementary principles of law and justice.

THE WORKER (U.S.) May 19, 1968:

BWASHINGTON, the D.R.V.N. clearly hinted that the U.S. must stop completely the bombing of North Viet Nam so as to create a favourable atmosphere for the peace talks.

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Central Committee of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Meets

THE Central Committee of the newly-founded Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces met on May 14 and 15 to review its work, assess the situation, and worked out policies for the immediate future, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

The Committee noted that the coming into being of the Alliance had received warm welcome and support from the public at home and abroad, particularly from personalities and intellectuals in Saigon.

—Chô Lon—Gia Dinh region.

It passed an appeal to the compatriots in South Viet Nam, and a statement on the crimes of the U.S. puppets.

The message was addressed to various personalities and intellectuals, artists, journalists and teachers, women, youth and students, national business circles, religious communities, political parties and mass organizations struggling for democracy and social welfare, and other urban patriotic forces.

It pointed out that in the current drive of concerted attacks in South Viet Nam, along with the assaults by the puppet's armed forces the townsfolk had again risen up to crush the low-echelon repression machine of the enemy and set up local revolutionary power.

—On the brink of collapse,"

the appeal went on, "the U.S. puppets are reacting madly, resorting to extremely barbarous and perfidious moves in the vain hope of saving their irretrievably hopeless situation. They have bombed and strafed areas of dense population, sowing destruction and death. They have reduced to ashes pagodas, churches, communal property, factories, and houses built with much sweat of the people."

"These savage war acts of the U.S., however, have driven home more forcefully its transparent scheme to the people: to talk about peace while actually going on with its desperate aggression," the appeal stressed.

The message then urged the people of all strata and religious beliefs, all political forces, all patriotic individuals, "to unite and close their ranks, to rise up and fight with whatever methods and weapons available in order to overthrow the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors, force the U.S. to withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam, wrest back power for the people, and win back independence, democracy and peace for the country."

It also called on officers and men in the puppet army and police and personnel in the Saigon administration to dissociate themselves from the enemy and go over to the people.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee's statement on the U.S.-puppet's crimes said that the U.S. and its henchmen, for fear of annihilation, had been conducting air raids and artillery attacks on populated areas in Saigon as well as in other urban centres. American B-52 strategic bombers had been operating just outside Saigon, while U.S. armed helicopters strafed civilian refugees, the statement added.

So far, it said, over 200,000 people have been driven homeless, and countless bodies of old people, children, pregnant women, monks and nuns, etc., have been discovered among the ruins.

The statement went on, "The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces strongly denounce to opinion at home and abroad these monstrous crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their puppets who are brazenly trampling underfoot all international laws, human

rights, and the most fundamental norms of justice and humanity, and seriously challenging the world public which has time and again severely chastigated the U.S. imperialist inhuman policies.

Their actions are part of a sinister plan deliberately aimed at massacring the civilian population, and covering various patriotic movements and forces hostile to the U.S. war of aggression and the dictatorial regime of the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors."

"We earnestly and urgently call upon the world peoples and the people in the United States to condemn more severely these criminal acts of the U.S. and its stooges, and assist us in checking their hands stained with our compatriots' blood, for the sake of peace, justice and humanism."

The statement stressed, "These savage acts, however, are no proof of U.S. strength. They only tell of the desperate struggle of a beast in its death throes, and only exhibit the hatred and burning fury in the heart of each Vietnamese."

"In committing them, the enemy is digging his own grave," the statement concluded.

Photo:

President of the Congress of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

Centre: *Lawyer Trinh Dinh Tho*, Chairman of the Alliance Central Committee.

Right: *Mr. Lam Van Tet*, engineer, Vice-Chairman.

Left: *Professor Duong Ky*, Secretary General and *Mrs Duong Quynh Ky*, Deputy Secretary General.

MASS ACTION IN SOUTH VIET NAM CONCERTED UPRISINGS

"An Insurrectional Mood Reminiscent of the Years 1959-1960"

ON the night of May 4 when N.F.L. flags were fluttering in the air and the gunfire of the P.L.A.F. dashing forward in their assaults was rattling on the battlefields across South Viet Nam, millions of people from all walks of life swung into action in response to the call of the Revolution. In Long An, Ben Tre, My Tho, An Giang and Chau Doc provinces, columns of demonstrators comprising the Kinh or majority people,

the Khmers, Catholics, Buddhists and members of the Hoa Hao religious sect streamed on the roads together with militia units. In Gia Lai and Ban Me Thuot provinces, mountaineers herded into "strategic hamlets," pulled down their jails and rose up to liberate themselves. Armed self-defence squads made their appearance in the streets and boulevards of Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and other cities. In some areas, loud-speaker broadcasts, and sounds of tantams, gongs and rattles arousing the masses into action, were reminiscent of the insurrectional atmosphere in the Mekong Delta.

In the Rural Areas

THROUGHOUT most of the countryside, thousands of people swarmed on the roads together with militia units and chopped them up into hundreds of sections. Linking the Mekong Delta to Saigon. Important bridges and roads were blown up many times. Highway 1 and 2, and the Qui Nhon and An Phu pipelines were cut at many places.

In serious ranks, the people put up "pacification" teams to fight. They wiped out the last vestiges of enemy rule. They set up family registers, vote cards, etc., and took to tasks such

in charge of inter-family, inter-hamlet and other organizations set up by the enemy. "Strategic hamlets" were demolished or transformed into people's fighting villages.

The inhabitants also joined "people's logistics" or went up the line to help in the fighting. As for political brigades comprising women and old folks, they took upon themselves the task of routing the national feeling of the puppet soldiers and co-ordinating movements.

In the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh Area

In Saigon, on May 4, the popular uprising started at 21 hours in the Hoa

Hung, Nguyen Thong and Yen De sectors and soon spread to all over the capital.

In the heart of the city, at the very start of the insurrection, the people erected roadblocks and anything they could lay hold on. They built fortifications in key sectors, ready to meet enemy counter-attacks, as at Khanh Hoi, the Phu Tho race track, the Y-shaped bridge etc., thus cutting off communication lines to enemy armoured cars for a long while.

The administrative building of the 5th district in the very centre of Cholon was taken by storm and a N.F.L. flag hoisted on the rooftop. Other

VIET NAM COURIER

The Saigon Regime Heads for Inescapable Collapse

THE present disruption of the Saigon puppet regime portends the inevitable collapse. A retrospective glance at the building up, splitting up, and the collapse of the social basis which served as its support will make this perfectly clear.

The Ngo Dinh Diem regime, installed by the Americans, represented the most reactionary elements in the land—owning and comprador capitalist classes of South Viet Nam. With a view to shoring it up, the Americans and Diem tried to rally under the tattered banners of so-called "nationalism," "independence," remnants of the defeated troops left behind by the French colonialists, hoodlums, and displaced persons from the North, especially Catholics.

In the bloody years of "peace" from 1954 to 1959, the Ngo Dinh Diem regime resorted to the most heinous and vicious political methods. Although the most ruthless and most promising of American creatures, it finally came to grief. By promulgating laws which set up the medieval guidelines everywhere in South Viet Nam, it roused the South Vietnamese people to insurrection, which course of action confirmed the adage: "wherever there is oppression there is struggle."

Their general discontent brought about a turning point: the shameful failure of the American "special war" and the glorious birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. This was a decisive blow at the frail social basis which was serving as a prop for the puppet administration. It

underwent a serious split: the few fence-sitters that still remained in the countryside, a major part of the middle strata in the towns and a number of those in the puppet strata went over to the N.F.L., the people, the Resistance. The displaced persons from the North, including the Catholics, gradually managed to get away from the miserable and squalid life of deception and shame, which the Americans and Diem tried to impose on them at Cai San, Kinh Do, Tong Bang, and other places, and joined in the general struggle of the Southern compatriots.

Following the murder instigated by the Americans of Diem and his brother Nhu, which put an end to the puppet administration's most "stable" period, the pace of the twofold evolution of South Viet Nam quickened and became clearer: under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. the people and armed forces of the South, developed and consolidated with each passing day their ranks against the Americans and their puppets, and resented the American "special war" got bogged down in deeper slough of defeat. The prop on which the puppet regime rested began to crumble. As the base, there was no longer any mass support of any significance; at the upper level, a few rascals, members of the puppet army, kept jockeying for power. The so-called "resettlement centres" for Catholic displaced persons finally vanished.

With Duong Van Minh, Nguyen Khanh, Chi Thieu, administrative headquarters and services were also occupied.

In the 5th district, the power plant was destroyed and enemy warehouses and depots were reduced to heaps of ashes.

In some areas of the 1st, and 3rd districts where the P.L.A.F. offensive was long overdue, the people still under enemy control stopped work, stayed away from market places and refused to co-operate with the puppet administration.

Remarkably enough, young boys and young girls of Saigon quickly volunteered to serve as auxiliaries for the Liberation fighters. They carried food and supplies and munitions, or acted as riflemen, stretcher bearers and liaison agents. They replaced fallen combatants and in many cases took part in direct fighting. Others joined armed self-defence squads and tracked down torturers, police

and secret agents and informers to punish them, or people's courts were set up to try them. These showing of repentance received instant treatment.

In Gia Dinh, all police stations were attacked then used to the ground. The Phu Nhuan Police Chief, a captain, was shot dead. In Saigon, the General Police Director Chô Lon was as well as police stations and teams in various districts were also used to the ground.

Puppet Police Chief Brigadier General Nguyen Ngoc Loan and two other police majors were seriously wounded. Colonel Dam Van Quy was killed one day after he had been appointed to replace Loan. The police ranks were seriously depleted.

Agitation work among the puppet soldiers was not less active. In Da Nang, they took part to persuade families of officers and men of the puppet army to desert. In Saigon, they called on their relatives or pa-

then Thieu-Ky successively in power, the Americans have squandered an enormous amount of American money and blood, to no avail. The current general offensive and uprisings started this spring by the South Vietnamese people and armed forces have

dealt a crushing blow at the puppet regime. The birth of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, which represents new patriotic forces in the towns and villages, including the real estate owners, bourgeois, intellectuals and even members of the

In the small hours of May 21, P.L.A.F. gunners pounded and set ablaze 150 U.S. aircraft (mostly helicopters), many storage depots and barracks at Dong Lam (26km northwest of Saigon), the main camp of the U.S. First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile).

The First Cavalry—one of the latest U.S. military units—was equipped with more than 400 helicopters which provide the highest mobility ever reached by any imperialist army.

The Dong Lam attack was the most successful raid ever mounted against an enemy base camp in South Viet Nam with the largest total of U.S. aircraft in a single action. The U.S. planes destroyed this time accounted for one-third of the Division's air strength. 17 U.S. losses during Operation *Deafness* on Highway 12 were included (200 aircraft, mostly choppers,

the First Cavalry destroyed on the ground or shot down), within a month, between April 19 and May 20, the P.L.A.F. in the Hue sector blasted to pieces three-fourths of the total of choppers put at the disposal of this U.S. division.

The Dong Lam victory once again illustrates the defensive and passive posture of the U.S. armed forces in the Hue battle area in particular and in South Viet Nam in general. Following the setbacks they sustained during the U.S. aggression, they anticipated a new major P.L.A.F. attacks. They conducted a series of operations in an effort to flush the P.L.A.F. out of urban centres and populated coastal areas. Nevertheless, all their military operations were beaten off and all their bases came under constant attack, including those most strongly guarded in the very heart of Hue

renewal. In Gia Dinh, a meeting of families of puppet officers and men was called at which they were kept abreast with N.F.L. policies and talked into recalling their sons or relatives.

Towards Total Conquest of People's Power

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the rounding up of torturers, police agents etc., the people saw to law and order themselves. In several Saigon's districts and street wards people's power was established. It was in this stirring atmosphere that the Congress of the Saigon Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has held and its appeal issued, urging the people to force ahead with the spirit of the Congress. The Municipal Liberation Federation of Trade Unions also called a conference and appealed to torturers and

other labouring people to rise up.

Revolutionary power was set up in practically all other areas where popular uprisings took place.

Meanwhile, in previously liberated areas, the people were busy giving finishing touches to their administrative set-up. In Ca Mau etc., to people's councils were liberated villages and hamlets, and people's liberation committees were formed.

The attack on the camp of the U.S. First Cavalry before dawn on May 21 has proved that all the kinds of armed positions of the enemy have experienced a tremendous growth and have promoted the diverse and flexible tactics of the people's war, thereby giving the offensive posture of the P.L.A.F. greater respectable and greater power and steadiness in the Hue battle area in particular, and elsewhere in South Viet Nam as a whole.

puppet army and administration... has worsened the isolation of the Americans and their puppets before the Vietnamese people's great bloc of unity against American aggression, for national salvation. A handful of hoodlums who could be counted on the fingers of one hand, claiming to be "constitutional" and "legal" rulers and relying on the impotent bayonets of an aggressive army at home, is the present image of the Saigon "administration." It won't survive a single minute the American aggressive war now in an impasse.

City. Crack U.S. forces, specially the First Air Cavalry, got seriously mauled. Even though the U.S. aggression resort to the most modern tactics and techniques, they still find themselves in a fix no matter whether they fan out for attacks or dig in in their camps. The "superiority" of the U.S. First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) has been exploded on the battlefield.

In this onslaught, the P.L.A.F. destroyed the bulk of the chief means of mobility, the important technical prop of the U.S. troops, frustrating the hope U.S. rulers placed on their trump-card, i.e. high mobility which would enable their troops to take their adversaries by surprise.

The Dong Lam victory has also strikingly highlighted the combat skill and good command of the P.L.A.F. Hardly has U.S. cavalrymen returned to their base in disarray following their setbacks in Operation *Deafness*, when, 4 days later, the P.L.A.F. pressed on their attacks which caught the enemy unawares and inflicted a serious setback on him. Furthermore this victory has shown the high technical standard of the P.L.A.F. artillery. The closely and effectively co-ordinated actions of the local guerrillas and inhabitants have made it possible for the P.L.A.F. to move their guns into vantage positions of the enemy completely in the dark as to what was going on around him.

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THE current uprisings in South Viet Nam are not out a factor, not new of course, but the weight of which is clearly felt this time: the action of the masses. As we have seen, in face of this spirit of the Congress. The Municipal Liberation Federation of Trade Unions also called a conference and appealed to torturers and

other labouring people to rise up.

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VIET NAM COURIER

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

- Engagements in Many Localities Downtown Saigon Now Controlled by the P.L.A.F.
- Heavy Shelling of Dong Lam, First Cav. Base: 150 Aircraft Destroyed within an Hour.
- Mekong Delta: 14 Vessels of U.S. Riverine Unit Sunk or Burnt, 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded.
- An Enemy Company Wiped Out by 11 Guerillas Northeast of Saigon

ONE of the salient features of the military operations unfolding in the last few weeks is the continuity of the battles fought by the P.L.A.F. in the center, suburbs and periphery of Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh. Three weeks after the May general offensive and uprisings, up to May 27, the P.L.A.F. fighters and self-defence units of Saigon continued to hammer at enemy positions near Phu Tho race course and in the 5th and 6th districts and threaten the 1st district where puppet administrative organs and American offices are located while P.L.A.F. artillery pounded other military targets in the 3rd and 5th districts. Fighting was raging at Tan Thieu's "palace." On May 28, the puppet H.Q. near Tan Son Nhut airbase was struck. On May 24, 25 and 26, the P.L.A.F. mounted an attack on the U.S. Embassy and destroyed a tank in the downtown area.

In the suburbs of the city, the activities of the patriots have virtually isolated Saigon from all sides. In the Northwest, violent battles took place at Gia Dinh, Saigon twin city, in which the P.L.A.F. fought back all counter-attacks of puppet paratroopers and rangers covered by tanks, artillery and aircraft.

To the North, in the region of Tan Son Nhut, fierce engagements with the P.L.A.F. cost the puppet troops about one hundred casualties. Western agencies reported that a puppet marine unit was engaged in a block of burning houses on May 29.

To the west, the greater part of Phu Lam suburb remains in the revolutionary people's hands. Western press agencies disclosed that on May 28, the biggest telecommunications centre in Southeast Asia nearby was the target of two shellings within 24 hours. In the Y-shaped bridge area south of the city, the P.L.A.F. fought fierce battles.

In the outer periphery of the city, the P.L.A.F. panned down big enemy forces and inflicted heavy losses on them, preventing them from falling back on the city.

To the North, the guerrillas at Lai Thieu, 12km from

Saigon, 160 casualties on the Americans on May 13 and 15.

To the Northwest, 400 enemy troops were killed or wounded, 25 tanks and armoured cars destroyed and 5 aircraft downed in the engagements which took place on May 17, 18, 19 and 20 in two villages respectively 25km and 35km from Saigon. About 50km from the city, a strong column of G.I.'s was decimated in 5 days ending May 18; 500 men put out of action, 123 vehicles mostly tanks and armoured cars destroyed. Near Tay Ninh town (85km from Saigon) the U.S. camp at Trang Lon suffered heavy losses in the violent assaults of the P.L.A.F. On May 15, 250 U.S. and Filipino soldiers were put out of action, 14 aircraft mostly choppers destroyed on the night of May 25. 20 G.I.'s of U.S. Cavalry killed or wounded, 6 cannons and 15 armoured vehicles destroyed.

To the South, the Can Giuoc sub-sector, C.P. 30km from Saigon, was pounded by P.L.A.F. artillery on May 28.

To the Southeast, two 10,000-ton cargo-boats and a smaller one were damaged on May 19 and a landing-craft set afire on May 25, respectively 20km and 10km from Saigon.

To the Southwest, 550 puppet troops were killed, wounded or captured in many battles which took place on May 16 and 17 in 4 localities between 12km and 30km from Cholon.

In the Mekong Delta, most remarkable was the quasi-destruction by P.L.A.F. shelling of an American riverine unit of 14 vessels on an arm of the Mekong river, in Ben Tre province on the morning of May 27. 7 (4 dispatch-boats and 6 landing ships) sent to the bottom and 4 other set on fire in 15 minutes. One thousand G.I.'s were killed or wounded, a great quantity of war materiel captured by the patriots. It is worth mentioning that the Giong Trom river banks, previously showered with bombs by B.52s. This is the second disaster of the U.S. Navy in May, in the first engagement which took place on May 8 in another arm of

the Mekong, the Ba Lai river, same province, the enemy had had 11 ships sunk or set afire and 600 G.I.'s put out of action.

On May 15 and 16, 5 puppet companies were wiped out or badly mauled in two localities (near Can Tho, the most important town in West Nam Bo, and near Rach Gia, on the Gulf of Thailand).

NORTH of Hue, a hard blow was dealt at the U.S. modern means of transport. In the shelling of "Evans" camp, base of the First Cav. at Dong Lam, the P.L.A.F. destroyed on the ground 150 American motor helicopters. The camp was targeted by a fire for 8 hours running. Meanwhile other bases of U.S. paratroopers near Hue were hard hit.

In the region of Dong Ha, fierce battles followed one another. At Dong Ha, the P.L.A.F. artillery pounding

caused on May 27 a big conflagration which sent up a column of smoke 400m high. North of that base, in engagements occurring between May 19 and 27, at least 1,600 enemy troops were killed or wounded, including 1,200 G.I.'s, 10 companies (6 American) were wiped out or eliminated.

In the coastal provinces between Da Nang and Nam Bo, the P.L.A.F. have been very active, chiefly south of Da Nang. That big base was heavily shelled on May 25 and 26. On the night of May 26, Chu Lai, Hoi An, Tam Ky and Phu My were also the targets of P.L.A.F. artillery. On May 28, reported Western agencies, Tam Ky provincial capital was subjected to a large-scale attack of the P.L.A.F.; on May 28, the fighter positions at Hoi An townlet, 38km southwest of Tam Ky, were flattened. Northwest of Tam Ky, U.S. Brigade 198 took 800 casualties in a fortnight ending May 18, 8 cannons, 14 armoured vehicles, 37 planes and helicopters destroyed. About 20 km south of Da Nang, 5 enemy columns were intercepted between May 16 and 18; 600 casualties for the enemy including 400 G.I.'s.

In the Western High Plateaux, military operations have been step up west of Dakto. The U.S. positions west of Kontum were stormed on May 26, and those at Da Nang on May 27 and 29; many choppers were destroyed, AFP reported. Pleiku provincial capital was also assaulted and Holloway camp suffered heavy damage.

Lastly, 11 guerrillas distinguished themselves in a split-second action on May 23, near Bu Prang in which an enemy company was wiped out; 50 enemy soldiers were killed and the remnants wounded by mines, hand grenades and automatic weapons of these valiant fighters.

Miscellaneous News

● The N.F.L. Committee in Quang Nam — Da Nang has decided to release Nam Sung Oak, registration number 9323395, head of the intelligence group of the "Between Dragon" Brigade of the Pak Jung Hi mercenary army in South Viet Nam. He was captured on January 30, 1968 in Hoi An. During his detention Nam Sung Oak had shown repentance of his crimes against the Vietnamese people.

● Within ten days, from May 4 to May 12, 1968, 30,000 people in My Tho province rose up to break the enemy's grip and regained control of their native land. The insurgent people punished 20 most cruel agents of the enemy and captured hundreds of others. The My Tho people cut the portion of Highway 4 from Bac My to Tan Hung into 70 segments, destroyed 300 trucks and set up 3,350 roadblocks on the highway. Responding to the call of the people, 400 puppet

soldiers deserted and went home. For several days on end, flags of the N.F.L. were hoisted in the hamlets and many households in My Tho town.

● The workers at the printing works of the Liberation Army in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) have launched an emulation drive under the watchword "All for the victory over the U.S. aggressors!" In the first quarter of 1968, despite many difficulties, such as inadequate supply of materials, the temporary detaching of one-third of the factory's personnel to other jobs etc., they turned out 15,000 copies of books of various kinds, more than 45,000 copies of newspapers, nearly 400,000 leaflets and posters in service of the general offensive and widespread uprisings. This quantity of publications and newspapers was double compared with the same period in 1967.

● The South Viet Nam Association for the Protection of Mothers and Children has sent a letter to all organizations working for the sake of children, on the occasion of the International Children's Day (June 1st).

The letter stressed the deep sorrow felt by the Vietnamese mothers on seeing their children "killed or disabled by U.S. bombs, shells, toxic chemicals and war gas. In South Viet Nam urban areas, large numbers of young girls have been turned into playthings of G.I.'s. Illiteracy and deprivation owing to U.S. licentious films have given rise to widespread hoodlums and juvenile delinquency."

It recalled the massacres in February and March this year at Son Tinh district, Quang Nam province, and at Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen and Hoi An districts. Quang Nam province where the Yankee aggressors and their stooges killed at one sweep 1,235 persons mostly women and children of babies and even roasted children alive and dismembered pregnant women, the letter added.